



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
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Big Bend National Park News Release

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK SEEKS COMMENTS ON WATER SUPPLY

Big Bend National Park proposes to convert the water supply for the Rio Grande Village developed area from a hot spring to a water supply well. The project would also include construction of a small water treatment structure (one-story, 20-feet by 30-feet); all appurtenant water lines and accessories necessary to connect the new water well to the existing storage and distribution system; a radio-telemetry system for remote monitoring and operation of the water supply system; and fire suppression systems for the maintenance facility and visitor center at Rio Grande Village.

The Rio Grande Village developed area encompasses the park's largest campground and only recreational vehicle campground. The developed area also includes a concessionaire-operated campers' store with shower and laundry facilities and an employee housing areas for concessionaire and park employees. Use of the well and water treatment structure instead of the hot spring would provide an adequate, reliable, and safe water supply for the Rio Grande Village developed area that meets all state and national drinking water standards.

In addition, implementation of the project would assure an adequate water supply for the endangered Gambusia (mosquito) fish. The existing water source for potable water at Rio Grande Village is a hot spring that also provides water for the Gambusia fish. Continued use of the hot spring for potable water would decrease available flows for this endangered fish species.

An early step in the National Park Service planning process is to involve the public. Park Managers, therefore, are soliciting comments on the concerns and issues to be addressed in an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will be prepared for this project. The EA should be available for public review during the spring of 2006.

Please submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. The 30 day comment period starts on February 7, 2006 and ends on March 7, 2006. All comments become part of the Administrative Record. Written comments may also be submitted to:

Superintendent
Big Bend National Park
POB 129
Big Bend National Park, TX 79834

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